



David Herro, noted fund manager and car buff, tells party guests to dress 'racy'

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David Herro is precise when it comes to directing mutual funds, so a few friends were surprised that the invitation to his 50th birthday party last week was somewhat ambiguous.

David Herro



The party, which drew a who's who of Chicago's cultural, political and business worlds, was held in a Loop garage that acts as a storage facility for Mr. Herro's prized BMWs. He's a car buff, after all. The invite said dress was "racy," which had some guests looking "race-y" (as in race-car chic) and others dressing provocatively.

"That was the fun of it," says one guest, who saw the event as homage to Mr. Herro's love of cars and dressed as such. Others went the titillating route.

Everybody fit in just fine.

Mr. Herro, who declined to comment — with a smile — manages the \$6-billion Oakmark International Fund for Harris Associates in Chicago. Earlier this year he was named international stock fund manager of the decade by Morningstar Inc.

The fund manager is low-key but active in organizations and political causes around the city, including After School Matters, Steppenwolf Theatre Company and the Joffrey Ballet. He's also opened his wallet in recent years to Chicago political candidates.

No surprise, then, that mayoral candidate Rahm Emanuel was among the 300 attendees.

Others at the party included Valor Equity Partners CEO Antonio Gracias and wife Sabrina; philanthropists and neighbors Lewis and Susan Manilow; Corporate Cleaning Services CEO Neal Zucker; Ariel Investments President Melody Hobson and film director-boyfriend George Lucas; philanthropists Ed and Dia Weil, and Economic Club President Grace Barry.